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Postal Regulatory Commission  
901 New York Avenue, NW Suite 200  
Washington, DC 20268

POSTAL REGULATORY  
COMMISSION  
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

RE: Docket RM2017-3

Dear Commissioners:

We write to express our concern regarding the new formulas for calculating postage that are not capped by the Consumer Price Index (CPI) as they were previously. Increasing postal costs in the nonprofit community would be devastating and would hinder our ability to support the lives of elderly adults. We are asking you to please reconsider this postal cost surge.

For over 40 years, our company, DOROT, has been an innovative leader proudly serving older adults with a range of solutions to address the complex causes of loneliness and social isolation. Our signature programs are designed to bring social connection to older adults – which is critically important for those who have difficulty leaving their homes without support.

Generous donations are the only way this nonprofit can exist and we use direct mail to receive these donations. Direct mail focuses on individual donors and is our largest source of contributions. Over the last few years, there has been an upward trend in our response rates from direct mail. Direct mail response rates are higher than all forms of digital advertising – combined.

Our vital, supportive services and opportunities build social connections with peers and other generations. In just the past 15 years, more than half a million older adults benefited from DOROT visits, meals, classes, intergenerational programs and other services. Volunteers of all ages have given almost one million hours to creating bonds of friendship, providing support and the vital human connection that protects against loneliness.

Without contributions via postal services, we would not be able to make the same impact on our community. The rise in postal charges would dramatically decrease the amount of people we can serve; decrease the amount of services we provide; and decrease our influence in helping social isolation in older adults. There is a great deal more to be done to change their lives and we cannot move backwards. The aging population is growing, and we must continue



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to serve their ongoing needs. Our impact would not be possible with the increase in postal prices.

Sincerely,

Dorothy Kauffman

Chief Advancement Officer